PROPOSALS

For Building in every COUNTY

A

WORKING-ALMS-HOUSE

OR

HOSPITAL;

As the Best Expedient to perfect the *TRADE* and *MANUFACTORY*

OF

Linnen-Cloth.

Richard Haines

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Linen-Cloth

PROPOSALS for Building in every County a WORKING-ALMS-HOUSE *or* HOSPITAL, *as the best Expedient to perfect the Trade and Manufactory of Linnen Cloth.*

WHEREBY,

I. All Poor people and their Children from five or six years old may be employed and maintained; as alſo all Beggars, Vagrants, *&c.* reſtrained and for ever prevented, and ſo all Pariſhes eaſed of that intolerable Burden.

II. Many Hundred Thouſand Pounds kept at home, which now every year goes out of the Kingdom for *Linnen*, whereby our Wealth becomes a prey to other Nations.

III. Much Land improved in every County to great advantage of Landlord and Tenant.

Humbly Offered to the Conſideration of the great Wiſdom of the whole Nation, now Aſſembled in Parliament.

CONſidering the great Complaints of Poverty, the heavy Burdens moſt Pariſhes lie under to maintain their Poor, which daily encreaſe; the Swarms of Beggars, Vagrants and

Idle People in City and Countrey; the great, and 'tis fear'd, irrecoverable decay of our Ancient Trade for Woollen Cloth; the vaſt Charge we are yearly at in purchaſing Linnen, *&c.* from other Nations, whereby our Treaſure is exhauſted, and our Lands fall for want of being improved ſome other way, beſides planting Corn, breeding for Wool, *&c.* Which are become of ſo low a price, as ſcarce to turn to Account: And underſtanding, that for remedying thereof, the Improving the Manufactory of Linnen is now under Debate, I have taken the boldneſs to Offer the following PROPOSAL, which if thought fit to be put in practice, will (in my opinion) infallibly conduce to all the good Ends deſired and intended; *viz.*

That there may be Erected in every County according to its Extent or Populouſneſs, a greater or leſſer Working-Alms-Houſe, *wherein the Poor may be continually employed in the Manufactory of* Linnen Cloth.

The Advantages whereof are evident; For,

I. This Manufactory is an Employment for the weakeſt people, not capable of ſtronger Work, *viz.* Women and Children, and decrepit or aged people, now the moſt chargeable; as likewiſe for Beggars and Vagrants, who live idly, and by the ſweat of other mens Labours, and can no way ſo effectually be brought to Induſtry and Order, as when reduced into ſo narrow a Compaſs or Confinement under fitly qualified Rulers, Officers, and Regular Government.

II. Theſe Working-Alms-Houſes may raiſe and ſupply the Nation yearly with a ſufficient Stock of Linnen Cloth (the fineſt ſort excepted) if true meaſures be taken, and the Deſign effectually proſecuted; As for example, 1352000 pounds worth of Cloth may yearly be ſpun in them only, beſides what is made in private Families —— Thus demonſtrated;

1. 'Tis

1. 'Tis well known by experience, that three quarters of a Pound of Thread worth 12 *d. per* Pound ſpinning, will make one Ell of Cloth worth 2 *s. per* Ell; which Three quarters of a Pound two Spinners may ſpin in one day; Hence it follows,
2. That 2000 Spinners will ſpin Thread enough in one day to make 1000 Ells of Cloth, worth 100 *l.* And working but 260 days in the year, may ſpin 26000 Pounds worth of Linnen Cloth in a year.
3. Suppoſe then there be as many publick Work-houſes, as there are Counties, which are 52, and in every Work-houſe, one with another, 2000 Spinners (though in ſome more, ſome leſs) then according to theſe reaſonable meaſures, there will be the forementioned Sum of 1352000 *l.* worth of Cloth ſpun in one year; which is what we undertook to demonſtrate.

This or ſome ſuch prodigious Sum of Money might yearly be raiſed to the Nation, whereby a Treble Benefit would enſue, Firſt, we might ſave ſo much Money now yearly ſent out of the Nation for Linnen, which, as computed by very worthy Intelligent perſons, has of late coſt us more than a Million *per Annum.* Secondly, By employing thoſe hands, which for the greateſt part are idle, it being reaſonably ſuppoſed that there are at leaſt 100000 Beggars or others who want a lawful Employment. Beſides, almoſt all both Men, Women and Children that can but pull Tire or Tow from the Diſtaff, or ſuch eaſie work, may be ſpeedily employed and removed from being chargeable; ſo that there will be no fear of any Pariſh in the Kingdom being oppreſſed, or indeed charged, ſave only in caſe of extream Age, or Children in their Infancy, neither of which continues long. And Thirdly, Much Land throughout *England* will be greatly improved by ſowing Hemp, Flax, *&c.*

Obj.

Obj. It may be objected, *That if the Houſe be ſtockt with ſo many weak, ancient people and Children, this will croſs the great Deſign, becauſe they will not be capable to ſpin their quantity of Cloth, nor ſo fine.*

Anſw. As to Fineneſs, it matters not, if but one in five be employed in it to an exquiſite degree; for there is enough occaſion for courſer, for Sacking, Sails, Ticking, Common Table-Linnen, Sheets, *&c.* And as to Quantity, it may not be the leſs, becauſe the moſt laborious thing in Spinning is turning of the Wheel.

Now for the better effecting a Deſign ſo profitable and honourable to the Kingdom, I have improved my ſmall Genius to the utmoſt, notwithſtanding I above all Projectors, have been moſt diſcouraged: And I know whoever will attempt any thing for publick Benefit, may expect theſe Three things. (The firſt is Neceſſary, the ſecond Cuſtomary, and the third Diabolical) *viz.* To be the Object of wiſe mens Cenſure, other mens Laughter, and if advantagious to himſelf, Envies implacable diſpleaſure; of which laſt, I have had ſhare to the higheſt degree that Revenge could expreſs; and this too from a pretended loving Brother, a perſon of an honeſt Profeſſion, and of as debauched a Conſcience; yet I ſay, notwithſtanding ſuch diſcouragements, I have ſpent ſome time for Publick Advantage, *viz.* To find out an Expedient both for Eaſe and quick Diſpatch, ſo as that the weak may do as much as the ſtrong, and the ſtrong much more than before.

As thus; One man may turn 50 Spinning Wheels, which ſhall ſerve 100 perſons to Spin with at once; ſo that the Spinners ſhall have nothing to do but employ both hands to draw Tire from the Diſtaff. The Demonſtration of the Infallibility of this Invention may be eaſily made when commanded.

As alſo, An Engine by which 50 men may, without ſtriking a ſtroke, beat as much Hemp in one day, as 100 ſhall do in two days.

Beſides

Beſides the Advantage of this Spinning Engine in Eaſe, Its expedition will alſo be conſiderable; For if (as we doubt not) by this help Spinners can earn 9 *d. per* day, as eaſie as 6 *d. per* day without: By that means computing only 1000 Spinners in each of the 52 Work-houſes, in one years time will be gained the Sum of 163968 Pounds and upwards, as by Calculation appears; and the Invention for Hemp-beating (which is the hardeſt work of all) will likewiſe in its kind be very conſiderably advantagious.

Obj. 2. But ſome will be ready to object, and tell us, *That we talk of brave things, if words would do the Work; but where's the Money for the Building of ſuch great Hoſpitals? and providing all Tools and Materials will coſt many Thouſand Pounds.*

I confeſs here's the Knot, which ſeems knit by Magick Art; but if it can be untied without cutting or breaking the Thread, then I hope our Propoſals will not be rejected.

Anſw. To this therefore I humbly Anſwer, That it may be done by a County-Charge, with as much Satisfaction, Pleaſure and Advantage, as to part with 5 *l.* to prevent paying 50 *s. per An.* which I think no wiſe people will judge to be an hard Bargain; eſpecially if they conſider the other vaſt profit to the Nation, and that thereby they purchaſe (in the Country) 50 *s. per Annum* more by improvement of their Lands for Hemp or Flax.——As thus;

Suppoſe every Pariſh, one with another, throughout the Nation, relieves as many poor People, Beggars, *&c.* as doth amount to 12 *d.* in the Pound, ſo that every 100 *l. per Annum*, pays 5 *l. per Annum* to the poor; Now if every 100 *l. per Annum*, pay 5 *l.* towards Building ſuch Hoſpital, then whereas more than half their poor conſiſts of Children, Women, and decrepit weak perſons, unfit for any other Employment, but ſuch as may fitly be removed to this Hoſpital; it follows, more than half their Charge will for the

the future be abated; yea, many Pariſhes have ſcarce any poor to provide for.

Wherefore as for raiſing Money, we will take our meaſures thus; In *England* there are commonly accounted 9725 Pariſhes, and 52 Counties; ſo that one with another, there are 187 Pariſhes to each County, and each Pariſh ſuppoſed to be worth 1500 *l. per Annum* (ſome more, ſome leſs) at the Rate of 12 *d. per* Pound, it will amount to the Sum of 14025 *l.* in each County, which undoubtedly will compleat the Houſe and Materials.

Obj. 3. *But this Method will not hold, becauſe one County hath not ſo many Pariſhes as another.*

Anſw. It matters not; Let each County build proportionably to their Money as it will ariſe at 12 *d. per* Pound, we doubt not but it will be ſufficient.

Obj. 4. It may further be Objected as impoſſible, *That the Spinning Engine ſhould turn to account, becauſe as oft as one Spinner has occaſion to ſtop, all the reſt muſt be idle; and again, ſince every Wheel hath its motion alike, and ſeveral Spinners work ſome faſter, ſome ſlower, therefore all conſidered, this Project will make but a Confuſion.*

Anſw. To this I reply; Any one may ſtop, and the reſt work on, and alſo may vary the motion of each Spinning Inſtrument, ſo as the nimbleſt and the ſloweſt may have their deſire: Nor may theſe Inſtruments be contemned, ſince they are as cheap as the other, and ſo ordered that the Spinners may ſit or ſtand when they pleaſe; which doubtleſs will be a good conveniency.

The Invention of theſe Engines is wholly mine, and if they prove effectual, I hope I ſhall not be deprived of receiving ſome benefit thereof; becauſe I am ſo free, as in effect to diſcover it beforehand. However, I ſubmit to what the Pleaſure of Authority ſhall allow: And to the

the intent theſe Hoſpitals may never fail of encouragement, that the Invention may be for ever ſecured to them, and prohibited to all others, ſo that the ſame may be improved only for their benefit, and private perſons not take the advantage thereof to the prejudice of this our pious and neceſſary Deſign: I doubt not but many will ſay, Tuſh! this is eaſie; any body may invent ſuch things as theſe.—Thus the Induſtry of one is gratified with the contempt of others: Howbeit I leave it with all humble ſubmiſſion to the grave Wiſdom aforeſaid, to conſider,

1. Whether theſe great Hoſpitals may not become Nurſeries for bringing up all poor peoples Children to Induſtry, and how by a Methodical Government every one may be ſo encouraged, that one ſtriving to excel the reſt, in very ſhort time, the fineſt Linnen may be made at home upon far better terms than what comes from beyond the Seas; and whether there be not a probability, if the Engines take, that we may come to tranſport Linnen upon as good terms as other Nations, ſince Flax and Hemp may here be as plentifully produced as in any other Countrey.

2. Whether this great and profitable Trade may not be managed for the moſt part by thoſe who at preſent are a burden; ſo that thoſe which before were induſtrious, may follow their former employments, and ſo no want of People for Husbandry, *&c.*

Obj. 5. *But what ſhall we do for Weavers?*

Anſw. I propoſe it to conſideration, whether it might not be a more Chriſtian and effectual courſe to ſuppreſs notorious Malefactors (except only in caſes of Treaſon and Murder) to condemn them hither for life or years, where they may be ſerviceable to turn Wheels, fit Tier to the Diſtaffs, reel Yarn, ſwingle or hitchel Hemp or Flax, Weave, *&c.* which an ordinary Ingenuity may learn in few days, rather than to ſend

them out with a Brand to commit freſh Villanies, or tranſport them, whence they preſently return: And this the rather to be heeded, for that Foreign Plantations have now ſo little occaſions for them, that Merchants refuſe to take them off the Sheriffes hands, without being paid for their Paſſage; ſo that above 80 Convicts in *Newgate* lately obtained a General Pardon on that very ſcore, becauſe they knew not what to do with them: Beſides, how many overſtockt Trades are there that complain for want of Trade, *&c.* Theſe may quickly learn to weave, and never fear an employ.

Obj 6. But as to Convicts brought hither, it will be Objected, *That they muſt be kept more ſecure, leſt they eſcape and do Miſchief.*

Anſw. They may be ſecured well enough, and thoſe that turn the Wheel, *&c.* may be ſeparated by an Iron Grate from the reſt: ——And here by the way, the pious wiſdom of the City of *London* may find out a means, whereby all thoſe Impudent Night-walkers, and Nurſes of Debauchery may be wholly removed, which at preſent are a deſtruction both to the Eſtates, Bodies and Souls of many Hundreds, and cannot be reclaimed by ordinary *Bridewels*, becauſe their Labour there is only a puniſhment, and turns not to advantage, to keep them there all their days, or at leaſt until they marry, and keep within doors.

Obj. 7. Some may imagine an inconvenience in ſending ſo many people from all parts of the County to one place, and ſay, *Why were it not better to build many little Work-Houſes rather than one great one?*

Anſw. I Anſwer, By no means; for then we ſhall miſs one great and chief Deſign, *viz.* the maintenance of good Government; by which the whole Family may be inſtructed in good Manners both towards God and Man; only as ſome Counties are greater, more populous, *&c.* they may have more or leſs proportionably.

Obj.

Obj. 8. There ſtill remains one Objection; and that is, *What ſhall we do for Hemp and Flax?*

Anſw. To which I Anſwer, That Hemp or Flax (one or the other) may plentifully be had in every County of *England*: Take *Suſſex* as an example; any indifferent good Land, Chalky, *&c.* from the foot of the *Downes* to the Sea-ſide, with double Folding or Dunging, and twice Plowing, will produce Hemp in abundance; yet though their Land be rich enough, dry, *&c.* it will not produce good Flax: But to ſupply that, many Thouſand Acres of the *Wild* of *Suſſex*, will produce Crops of Flax, worth ſome four, ſome five, ſome ſix Pounds an Acre, and that kind for Hemp, as aforeſaid, worth as much. Beſides, for encouraging the Planting the ſame at home, it may be convenient to lay an Impoſition of Four or Five Shillings in the Pound, or upwards, upon all Hemp, Thread, Cordage, or Linnen Imported from Foreign parts; by means whereof, we may raiſe it at home cheaper than buy them abroad, and then every body will Plant Hemp and Flax abundantly, as a thing of courſe, enriching thoſe that promote it.

But why 4 or 5 Counties ſhould (as ſome have propoſed) enjoy this great Wealth and Advantage of promoting the Linnen Manufactory and Improvement of Lands, and not the reſt, I cannot underſtand; nor for what reaſon ſo many people ſhould be drain'd out of all the Nation into four or five Midland Counties, ſince thoſe Counties next adjoyning to the Sea, ought to be kept moſt populous.

But to what purpoſe ſhould ſo much Hemp be planted?

I Anſwer, Hemp is of greater ſtrength than Flax, therefore of more excellent uſe for great advantage, as Cables, Ropes, and all kinds of Cordage, Sails, Sacking, *&c.* As alſo Thread for all Nets for Fiſhery; for which, and other purpoſes, we now buy yearly ſeveral hundred Thouſand Pounds worth from beyond the Seas; ſo that without controverſie, there's as much

Hemp to be uſed as Flax, and conſequently the Hemp-Mill may be as uſeful as the Spinning-Inſtrument.

Having, we hope, ſatisfactorily Anſwered all Material Objections againſt the main Body of this Deſign, it remains to conſider of the Order and Method of Governing theſe great Families or Corporations; but the Particulars thereof we leave to the deeper Wiſdom and judicious Care of Authority; only in general propoſe,

1. That for the better encouragement and ſupport of ſo many poor people labouring in ſo profitable a Manufactory, each Alms-houſe be provided with and allowed a publick Granary, for ſtocking themſelves with Corn when it is cheapeſt, againſt the time of Dearth; a priviledge we conceive not to be ſo properly adviſable for other Companies or Handicrafts (as ſome propoſe and deſire) becauſe that would always keep Corn too cheap, and conſequently undo the Tenant, or Landlord, or both: For what makes Wheat as often at 4 *s.* a Buſhel (under which it is known the Farmer cannot live) as at 2 *s.* 6 *d.* but becauſe all people in the Nation that have occaſion, muſt buy of the Land-Occupiers at the ſame time when it is ſcarce? But by ſuch general Granaries the hopes of 4 *s. per* Buſhel will be baniſht the Markets; but in our caſe painful Husbandry, that ancient Employment may well allow Granaries, both becauſe this Manufactory and Deſign eaſes their Charge to the poor, and is of more advantage to the Publick, than ſome 20 Trades beſides; and particularly, becauſe it helps to improve their Lands by Flax and Hemp, that now they need not ſo much relie upon Corn for raiſing their Rent: Beſides, if other overſtockt Trades want Bread, let them quit their Station, and come to Weaving, and then they may enjoy the benefit of theſe Granaries alſo.

2. That the Maiden-Children brought up in this Corporation, may after they attain to the Age of 15 Years, or other fit time, be permitted to go forth to Service to learn good Huſwifry,

Huſwifry, and the Lads to Husbandry or Trades, if they think fit; nor will there be need of ſo great caution to prevent the Marriages of the meaner ſort, ſince now the Pariſhes need not ſo much fear a Charge, knowing a means how to employ all their Children as faſt as they come to be five or ſix Years old; nor can a young man have better choice for a Wife than here, amongſt ſo many, all bred up induſtriouſly under ſtrict Diſcipline, and in a way to live: And therefore this Method will be ſo far from cauſing any depopulation, that it may encreaſe our Inhabitants; and the more, the better, ſince we know how to diſpoſe of them in ſuch laudable Employments: Moreover, hereby the diſtracting cares of poor honeſt Parents, oft occaſioned by a foreſight of their incapacity to provide for their Children, will be removed; ſo that they may paſs their time in peace, knowing that a good honeſt comfortable Employment and Education is provided for their Children, and their Childrens Children; nor may this leſs remove the Temptations both in Parents and Children, which cauſe them to be guilty of ſuch Miſdemeanors as ſometimes bring them to the Gallows; ſo that the Expedients offered for the accompliſhing this Manufactory, will produce a happy change in the whole Nation, *viz.* no more want of Work or Bread for the poor, no more Pariſhes oppreſſed, no more Beggars, a great abatement of Felons, Thieves, Cheats, Nurſes of Debaucherv, *&c.* many Lives preſerved, and (which is an hundred thouſand times more than all the reſt) many Souls ſaved: Much more might be ſaid in this caſe, to ſet forth the excellence of this Deſign; but I leave it as a work more deſerving the skill of the moſt Learned and Godly Divine, and ſhall only add,

In order to that laſt mentioned incomparable end, and for the better Education and Inſtruction of this great Family, That there may be placed in each Houſe an Able, Honeſt, Godly Miniſter, of a good, peaceable, kind diſpoſition and exemplary Converſation; that ſo no means may be wanting for promoting Gods Glory and their Edification: To which purpoſe, on Holidays

ſidays and other ſpare times, all or the moſt docible part of the People train'd up here, may likewiſe be taught to read, *&c.*

So may our moſt Great Prince, and Worthy Senators become further Inſtruments for the Nations Proſperity, and the Salvation of many Souls: Thus may the Bleſſing of Heaven crown all their Honourable Enterprizes and Prudent Counſels with moſt proſperous Succeſs, which that it may be ſo, is the hearty Deſire of

Your moſt Humble, Obedient and Faithful

Subject and Servant,

R. H.

FINIS.

POSTSCRIPT.

HAving received the princely Approbation of that moſt Judicious and publick ſpirited Promoter of *Englands* Weal and Proſperity, and all ſuch Ingenuites as tend to general Good, and whoſe Noble Actions have given matchleſs proofs of his great zeal thereunto, *viz.* His Illuſtrious Highneſs Prince *Rupert*, who having condiſcended to peruſe the preceeding Propoſals, was pleas'd to Honour me with his Approvement, Advice, and Encouragement therein; Judging it neceſſary, that I ſhould firſt offer the ſame to His Majeſties Conſideration; and in order thereunto, did Introduce me to His Royal Preſence, who was Graciouſly pleas'd to order me to deliver it to one of His Secretaries of State, to the intent he might peruſe it, and bring in his Report thereof; whereupon I carried it to Mr. Secretary *Coventry*, who gave his Approbation thereof to His Majeſty at the Council Table, where it paſs'd without any obſtruction:

Which gave me the greater Encouragement to put the ſaid Propoſals in Print, for the deliberate Peruſal, and grave Conſideration of both Houſes of Parliament; who, I humbly conceive, are as greatly concern'd to encourage all ſuch humble Endeavours, tending to ſuch General Wealth and Honour of the whole Nation.

And for as much as I have the opportunity, by reaſon of the Adjournments of Parliament ſince *Whitſuntide* laſt, immediately after which, my Propoſals came out of the Preſs, I thought it might not be ſuperfluous to add a few Lines for the Anſwering ſome further Objections, but firſt ſhall add a few Words to the Anſwer already given to the ſecond.

Obj. pag. 5. where I ſay, *That the laying out of* 5 *l. for the Building of working Alms-Houſes, will purchaſe* 50 *s. per Annum for ever*; Whereas I now find,

That it will purchaſe 20 *l. per Annum* in moſt Pariſhes; as may thus appear.

Suppoſe every Farm worth 100 *l. per Ann.* Plant but Eight Acres of Flax or Hemp, and that worth 7, 6, or 5 *l. per* Acre, which laſt ſum is the leaſt that may be expected from good Land to be worth, as it ſtands on the Ground; wherefore to avoid miſtakes, we will take our meaſures from 5 *l. per* Acre - 05-00-00

For Rent we will Deduct 20 *s.* for Seed 20 *s.* and for Plowing, Sowing, and Harrowing 10 *s.* In all —— 02-10-00

Which Deducted out of 5 *l.* there remains clear Profit for one Acre of Land — 02-10-00

So that eight Acres, at the leaſt value, muſt yield clear Profit, all Charges Deducted —— 20-00-00

To which add 2 *l.* 10 *s.* which will be ſaved out of the Poors Book, and it makes —— 22-10-00

So that a Farm which was worth 100 *l. per Ann.* will by this Expedient, be worth Six ſcore and Two pounds and Ten Shillings *per Ann.*; and to be Sold, will yield 450 *l.* more than before. Which

Which is a plain Demonſtration; that the laying out of 5 *l.* towards the building and furniſhing theſe Hoſpitals, will purchaſe above 20 *l. per Ann.* or bring in 450 *l.* And this is the loweſt Calculation that may be made of the Profits and Advantages that may ariſe by Planting of Hemp, and Flax, if well Husbanded.

And moſt true it is, there's no one Manufactory in *England* ſo generally profitable as this may be made, eſpecially to be raiſed from Land, with ſo little hurt done to the ſame, as may be Demonſtrated thus;

Suppoſe the Crop of one Acre, as it ſtands on the Ground to be worth 7 *l.* (which is a very moderate ſuppoſition.) This Seven Pounds worth being well Dreſt fit for the Spinners, may be worth 14 *l.* This Fourteen Pounds worth being well Spun and made into good Cloth, may be worth from 40 *l.* to 60 *l.* Yea I have been inform'd beyond the Seas, that the Cloth which might be made of one Acre of Flax well Dreſt, and well Spun, might be worth more than a 100 *l.*

Let us not forget, that we have idle hands enough in our Nation to perfect this moſt profitable Improvement; and alſo, that little more than half the Money which in one year goes out of the Nation for Linnen, will pay for accompliſhing the ſame: Nay, if the thing were rightly conſidered, it might be eaſily Demonſtrated, That the Money which goes out of the Nation for Linnen in one year, will pay for making of all the Cloth that may be made in 20 years; although in every year of that twenty, there be as much made, as now we buy in a Year of other Nations: As thus;

Money being kept at home within the Body of the Nation, is (as it hath no leſs aptly, than frequently been reſembled) like the Blood in its Circulation in the Body of Man, which is not the leſs for its perpetual Motion; but the whole Body thereby the better ſupplyed, ſtrengthened and nouriſhed in every Part. So it is with our Money; For, ſuppoſe Twelve hundred Thouſand pounds goes out of the Nation in one year, (which ſome ſay, is much more) This never returns again; But if the ſame ſum be paid for making ſo much Cloth at home, there's not one Groat the leſs at the years end; So that the very Money which pays for one years work, may pay for two years, and conſequently for 20 years, and yet paſs through all neceſſary Trades, and as well to the Land Occupier, as any.

The 9th Obj. *But poſſibly, your Engins for Expedition may fail, which if ſo, then notwithſtanding, the Spinners, &c. may earn their own Food, yet there will be nothing towards the maintainance of good Government, which is the great thing you aimed at, whereby all perſons who are brought into the Hoſpital, may be well Educated, and effectually Inſtructed in a Methodical way for expedition and advantage; Adminiſtring incouraging Rewards to the Ingenuous and Induſtrious; and Correction to thoſe that deſerve it, without which 'tis almoſt impoſſible to perfect your good deſign.*

Anſw. 'Tis very true: But firſt, I am confirm'd in my Judgement, that the riddance theſe Engins will make, cannot be leſs than what I have already propoſed in *pag.* the 5*th.*

Secondly, Suppoſe the worſt, *viz.* that the Engins

gins fail; What then; If every 100 *l. per Ann.* in each County contribute 3 *d. per* Week, which would undoubtedly be sufficient to maintain good Government amongst them? Nay, what, If for the better Incouragement, and more Comfortable maintainance of all the whole Family, six pence *per* Week be paid, it would amount but to 26 *s. per Ann.* to be allow'd out of the Profits which each 100 *l. per Ann.* will reap thereby; which according to our lowest Calculation, is not less than 22 *l.* 10 *s.* a year: And I hope the great wisdom of the Nation will not think it too much to part with 5 *l.* for the Building these Hospitals, and after they are built, to allow 26 *s. per Ann.* for the maintainance of good Government, *&c.* since by so doing, the whole Nation is enrich'd thereby: The truth is, these Hospitals and Government is so Essential, that the thing cannot be brought to pass without them; for whatever we may promise our selves; yet the Work is otherwise as unlikely to be effected, as a great Multitude of unhappy Scholars to learn their Books, where there is neither Master nor Tutor, to Rule, Teach, or Govern.

And who knows, but in very few Ages, each Hospital may have a plentiful Revenue bestow'd thereon: For what can be a fitter object for the Charity of such well disposed People, who out of their Abundance, may please to leave a Legacy behind them for Pious and Charitable uses, seeing here it will ever be imploy'd to the comfort of distressed Widows; the Maintainance and good Education of Fatherless Children; The Feeding the Hungry, Cloathing the Naked, *&c.* yea, the Posterity of the Donor.

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(according to the Revolutions of humane things) and the Poſterity of his Relations, may reap ſuch benefit by theſe deeds of Charity, as that they may be ever preſerved from Extremity.

Or, why ſhould we think it too much out of 100 *l. per Ann.* to caſt 5 *l.* a year into the Treaſury of this Houſe, to be ſcatter'd amongſt the Poor; ſince it is but a fourth part of what we gain by them: By this means, I am confident the Poor of each Pariſh would be ſo few, that there would be ſcarce enow to eat the ſpare Meat that comes from other mens Tables: Howbeit, it were good, that a Law were made, that every perſon that gives any Alms to any idle Beggars, or wandring People, (the Poor of their own Pariſh only excepted) ſhould forfeit 5 *l.* to the Treaſurer of the Hoſpital of that County in which they dwell, which would be no violation of the Precepts of Charity; but an effectual expedient to reſtrain all Beggars and idle people for the future.

If we believe (as I hope we all do) that the happineſs of a Nation hath its dependance on the good Will and Pleaſure of God Almighty, and that the more we pleaſe him, the greater Bleſſings we may receive from him. Let it then be conſidered, How acceptable an Offering it would be to the moſt High, when by ſo pious an Act of Our Gracious King and Parliament, together with the free Will Offrings of all able godly diſpoſed people, ſo many Thouſands, yea Thouſands of Thouſands, in proceſs of time, may be reſtrained, and prevented from living in that broad way of Idleneſs and Lewdneſs, in which is all manner of Debauchery. And now by this Reformation, from

from Generation to Generation, may become attentive Hearers of his Holy Word, which is the most Infallible Directory to bring them to Heaven.

Obj. *You talk of great Profits made of Flax in other Countries: But some are of the Opinion, That to raise the Linnen Manufactory here to that degree, is utterly Impracticable; as well, because our Domestick Flax is not so good as that which comes from beyond the Seas; as also, because our people cannot work it so well.*

Answ. This Objection, (which some are pleas'd to think very considerable) consists of two Branches: The first is an Exception to the goodness of our Flax; The second, to the Skill and Dexterity of our People.

As for the first, *whether ours be as good as Outlandish Flax?* It must be considered, and cannot be denied, but, that the far greatest part of the Flax which we Import from beyond the Seas, is *East-Country Flax*, I say, the far *greatest* part, ten to one in proportion; Now I am credibly informed by several well experienced Flax-Men (who have dealt in both Sorts) That *English* Flax is *full as good*, to all intents, as this *East-Country* Flax, and do not doubt, but it will appear so upon Examination; So that the Objection, as in Comparison with such *East-Country* Flax, vanishes; of which yet, (although we have but little Cloth made in *England*) there is, (as I am inform'd) several Hundred Thousand Pounds worth yearly Imported.

But then, as to *Dutch* Flax, indeed the Case is somewhat more difficult: It being a common opinion, that their Flax, in its nature, is better for making of Fine Cloth, than ours generally is: But even this is denied by persons of great Judgement and Experi-

ence,

ence, who affirm, that much Land in *England* may produce as kind Flax, to the full: Beſides, the *Dutch* Flax Imported, is but little, and comparatively Inconſiderable; as is indeed the Uſe and Conſumtion of very Fine Cloth, in reſpect of the vaſt quantities of Courſe and Ordinary Cloth; ſo that, if the Trade be Encouraged, we need not fear, but we may find ground enough in *England*, fit to produce as excellent Flax as any now brought from *Holland*, I mean, *ſo much* as we have occaſion for; And conſequently, may make as good Linnen; *If we do not ſpoil it in Working*: Which is the ſecond Charge of the Objection.

To which I Anſwer, That I have credibly been inform'd by ſome perſons, that they have, and can now already make as good Cloth here, as that which we commonly Buy for 5, 6, 7, or 8 *s. per* Ell: And why ſhould not our people, when they find the Manufactory Incouraged, and eſpecially by the Emulation and deſires to out-vie each other in good Work-manſhip in theſe publick Working Alms-Houſes; Why, I ſay, May we not arrive at as great Perfection in the Myſtery as any people in the World? The *Engliſh* once had the Reputation of the only excellent Artificers for Wollen Cloth; other Nations knew nothing, or very little of it; yet now we find, by unhappy experience, they equal, if not exceed us therein: Why may we not retaliate, and out-ſtrip them in another Myſtery? Or, Why ſhould we more ſcandal our ſelves with ſuggeſtions of Dullneſs and Indocility, than our Neighbours.

But to give more full ſatisfaction, That this Manufactory,

factory; eſpecially that part which is moſt advantagious to the Nation, as being moſt Conſumptive of our Hemp and Flax, and moſt promoting Trade and Imployment for the Poor; which indeed is common and ordinary Cloth, of which there is a Thouſand Ells to one Tranſported into all His Majeſties Plantations.

That this I ſay is ſuddainly to be perfected, I cannot but give a ſignal Inſtance, from the laudable practice and experience of that worthy Gentleman, Mr. *Tho. Firmin*, Citizen of *London*, who at this time Imploys in his Houſe (built for that purpoſe) ſeveral Flax-men, *Weavers*, *&c.* And alſo above 600 Spinners abroad. This Judicious perſon ſhew'd me more than 500 *l.* worth of very good ſubſtantial Cloth, of his own working. And in truth, I have convers'd with many; but never found any man ſo able and free to reſolve all doubts in this caſe; who told me for a Truth, that a Child of 5 or 6 years old, that had its Health, and a moderate Apprehenſion, might be taught in 6 Weeks to earn its living in Spinning; Which, if ſo, as from the Veracity and Experience of the Relator, I have no reaſon to doubt. It is moſt plain, that the moſt profitable part of this Manufactory may be both eaſily and ſpeedily accompliſh'd, and perfected, to the happy Reformation of many Thouſands, who now live by Begging, *&c.* giving ſcarce any thing for whatever they Eat, Drink, or Wear.

Beſides, let it be conſidered, How greatly this Manufactory will quicken and revive our decayed Markets and dying Trade, eſpecially, that of Huſbandry; which may eaſily be domonſtrated, thus;

As the Caſe now ſtands, every Family in the Na-

tion, either directly or indirectly, ſend their Money every year to the *Drapers* for Linnen, the *Drapers* they pay it to the Merchants, and away it goes every year beyond Sea, and never returns; whereby our Wealth is made a Prey to other Nations, whoſe Poor are imploy'd and maintain'd thereby, whilſt in the mean time our Nation is in a Conſumption, our Poor live by Begging, Poverty increaſes, and our Lands lye unimproved, for want of this Manufactory.

But now under this Reformation, every Family that ſends their Money to the *Drapers*, the *Draper* ſends it to the Maſters of theſe *Hoſpitals*, and they ſcatter it amongſt all the Trades in the Nation; eſpecially to the Farmers, and Tillers of Land, ready Money for Hemp and Flax; ready Money for Corn and Fat Cattle of all ſorts; and the like for Butter and Cheeſe, or any thing they have to ſpare: And all this, or the greateſt part, from thoſe who before lay a Begging at their Doors, or were maintained by Contribution; and now, the more people Increaſe, the better it will be for the whole Nation: And doubtleſs, if an Impoſition ſufficient were laid on Foreign Linnen, Hemp and Flax, and Incouragement due to ingenious and induſtrious people given, (as in this Caſe, the Nation might well afford) then to be ſure, our Hoſpitals would be ſuddenly ſtock'd with curious Artiſts, by which our new Manufactory would ſpeedily be brought to perfection.

'Tis worth conſideration alſo, how great an Ornament, beſides the great Wealth theſe Hoſpitals would be to His Majeſties Kingdom, and how much they would add to the Trade, Wealth, and greatneſs of thoſe Towns near which they are erected.

13. Obj.

13. Obj. *You talk much of Charity, Let Charity begin at home with good Husbandry: If this course be taken, we shall pay dearer for Linnen, than now we do, and it must needs be best Husbandry to Buy where we may have it Cheapest.*

Answ. If we send our Money beyond-Sea for what we want, then the more we Buy, the less Money we have to pay, which causes scarcity of Money, and also, want of Trade, whereby to get more; but if we bestow our Money for Commodities made at home, our Money and Trade will continually Increase; and though for a little while we pay somewhat more, yet it is easier to part with *9 d.* when Money and Trade are plenty and increasing, than to part with *6 d.* when Money and Trade is both wanting; especially, seeing the *9 d.* remains at home, and returns again, but the *6 d.* is carried into another Nation, and lost irrecoverably.

14. Obj. In *pag.* 5. you suggest, *That by your Engin, one Spinner may earn* 9 d. *as easily as* 6 d. *without it; But how can that be? since every Spinner now, may have a Wheel to turn with her foot, and so have both hands at liberty, as well as with your Engins: And again, its a more usual fault to over-twist the thred, than to do it too slack; therefore no need of help to turn the Wheel.*

Answ. To this I Answer, First, That the thing we chiefly design, is to imploy and maintain such as cannot any other way earn half their living by any other Imploy, so that more than half the Spinners would be very young, and of little strength, and consequently to imploy one foot all the time they Spin, will be very tiresome; nay, the strongest body cannot do it, without easing the same, neither can they imply both hands so freely, as when they are dis-

charged of that burthen, or incumbrance.

As for Example: Two men of equal ſtrength, skill, and nimbleneſs in all points, were to run a long Race, and one of them muſt carry ſuch a weight in his hand, as is more tireſome to him than the motion of his Legs, and oft-times, muſt eaſe the Burthen with his foot: May not the other, who hath all his Limbs free, be at the end of the Race and half-way back again as ſoon, and more eaſily than this can get to the end of the Race. Poſſibly ſome may ſay, *This Simile is not parallel, and that I make it better on my ſide than it is.* To which I ſay, for the Reſolution of this Queſtion, Do but inquire of thoſe that Spin, which of the Two is moſt tireſome, The turning of the Wheel, (either by the Foot or Hand, no matter which) or the other part of the Work. I have almoſt as often ask'd the Queſtion, as I ſee any a Spinning (ſince I invented this Engin) and the Anſwer has always been, The turning of the Wheel; although they imploy both hand and foot by turnes to do it: Beſides, it is burthenſome, and alſo injurious to the body; eſpecially for youth, which are growing, to be from Morning till Evening, always ſitting.

Secondly, Although it be true, *That over-twiſting the Thred is commonly a fault, rather than ſlack twiſting the ſame*; yet the Cauſe of this fault is, that they do not draw the Thred faſt enough: But to the better advantage, this will be eaſily cured; for now all the aforeſaid inconveniencies being removed, which render the Work moſt burthenſom; they may for their eaſe ſtand or ſit, when, and as often as they pleaſe, and freely imploy both hands from morning to evening, much more eaſily than they could one hand before;

and

and the faſter they draw the Thred from the Diſtaff, the more they Spin, with leſs danger of over-twiſting the ſame; ſo that I do not know, but thoſe that are ſome-time uſed to this eaſie way, may Spin as much in one day, as now in two.

Furthermore, theſe Spinning Inſtruments may in like manner be for Expedition very ſerviceable for Spinning of Wollen, I mean Serges, Worſted, Camlets, and Stockings, which being well made, are much more to be incouraged than Hair and Silk, theſe being Foreign Commodities, the other of our own Growth, eſpecially, ſince it is ſo, that our home Markets for Wool, and Foreign Markets for our Cloth grow worſe and worſe, and in the opinion of moſt, ſcarce ever to be recovered; which, if ſo, it muſt needs be the beſt Husbandry to promote ſuch Manufactories, as may be for the Conſumption of our own Materials.

Obj. *If you intend theſe Hoſpitals for the Imployment of ſuch as have Families of their own to maintain, the buſineſs will be confuſed and Impracticable.*

Anſw. Poſſibly ſo, at leaſt, in ſome reſpects and circumſtances; but that was never intended, the main deſign of theſe Hoſpitals being only for the relief of all oppreſſed Parents, Families, and Pariſhes, by taking off their young Children, and ſingle people, who have neither Habitation, nor Pariſh willing to receive them, there to be comfortably maintain'd, well educated and inſtructed in all good manners towards God and Man; Nor are any of them to be confin'd to this Houſe longer than untill they can well earn their Livings by other means, unleſs it be ſuch as are committed as perſons deſerving perpetual or tem-

temporary Confinement, which is far better than to Hang or Tranſport, except it be for Capital Crimes.

The ſecond Benefit aimed at, is the procuring the moſt Fine and curious Cloth, as well as quantities ſufficient of Courſer, for Domeſtick and Foreign Trade, to be obtained with great expedition: For ſo it is, That when ſo many are imploy'd in ſight of each other (eſpecially, where incouragement is given, and good Diſcipline maintain'd) the ſtrife of all, both ſmall and great, will be to excell each other, both in quantity and curioſity of Work.

Obj. *This Manufactory being thus incouraged, a conſiderable part of His Majeſties Revenue now ariſing by Cuſtom for Linnen Cloth will be diminiſhed.*

Anſw. I humbly Anſwer, That the ſame may be eaſily compenſated another way, it being (with all ſubmiſſion) conceived, That it would be happy for this Kingdom, if an Impoſition of 12 *d. per* quart more than now is, were to be paid for all *French*-Wine and Brandy; As alſo 5 *s.* in the Pound for all Hemp, Flax, and Linnen, that is Imported.

'Tis poſſible ſome may ſuppoſe, that my being thus intent and tedious, is only an itch of Fame; but I can juſtly aſſure the World, I am ſo far from any ſuch contemptible Vanity, That I am rather a beggar for the Poor and Diſtreſſed, and for their ſakes, would imitate the importunate Widow, in the 18th of St. *Luke*'s Goſpel, who obtain'd her requeſt meerly for the ſake of her Importunity; only this difference there is, Her ſuit was for Revenge, Mine for an Act of Charity; ſhe made her ſuit to ſuch a Judge as neither feared God, nor regarded man; but my humble, though earneſt ſuit is, To the Moſt *Chriſtian King*, a

Defender

Defender of the Faith; as alſo to the Great Wiſdom of a *Chriſtian Nation*, all which ſtrengthens my hopes, that I ſhall not be more unfortunate than was that importunate Widow.

And why ſhould I doubt it, ſince it is ſo, that even an unjuſt and ungodly Judge will redreſs the Grievances of the Oppreſſed, ſhall not the Beſt and Moſt Chriſtian Government exerciſe its power, for ſuppreſſing and reforming intollerable Evils, Oppreſſions, and Diſorders, ſeeing the Wellfare and Proſperity of the whole Nation is as it were Intail'd to ſuch an Act of Juſtice and Mercy. It is ſaid of Faith, Hope, and Charity, That the greateſt of theſe is Charity; yea, if a Man had all Faith, and all Hope, (both which are moſt excellent and neceſſary) yet it availeth nothing, if Charity be wanting. And ſince 'tis a Maxim, *That the beſt of Men cannot be Uncharitable:* I chearfully hope, that my humble Propoſals for an Act of Charity, will not be contemn'd by our Greateſt Worthies, ſince now in our view, the Wealth and Proſperity of the Nation, is in purſuit of the ſame.

I would not flatter my ſelf or others, but do confidently believe, That what with the Decreaſe of Poor People, The happy Reformation, and total Reſtriction of Beggers, Vagrants, Nurſes of Debauchery, *&c.* The yearly increaſe of Ten or Twelve Hundred Thouſand Pounds, which now will be kept at home, that before went beyond the Seas for Linnen; The great Improvement of Lands; The Exportation of Linnen of our own growth, *&c.* The worth and advantage of the whole cannot amount to leſs than Two or three Millions Sterling, *per Annum*, to the Nation: and over and above many lives preſerved, and (with Gods bleſſing on the means) many ſouls ſaved; which, if ſo, certainly it will be the beſt Bargain and happieſt that ever the Nation made, all circumſtances conſidered; Becauſe where ſo much Money is diſburs'd as will compaſs this great Wealth (without which it is almoſt impoſſible to be attain'd,) our Poſterity will have it for nothing; yea, the preſent Inhabitants have their Purchaſe Money ſtill amongſt themſelves, as it were, *in their own Sacks with their Corn*, ſeeing we Buy not this profitable Expedient of other Nations; which, if we were obliged to do, to be ſure they would make us pay *dearly* for it.

But ſuppoſe neither of theſe Advantages were to be reap'd for our Money, only the Poor provided for, and Reformation of Va-

grants accompliſh'd, Muſt we do nothing for Charity? Suppoſe any Oppoſers of this Deſign, were worth 5000 *l.* or 10000 *l. per Ann.* a piece, Can they be certain, that none of their Poſterity may within 200 years come to Poverty? Why then ſhould they be unwilling now to contribute freely, ſeeing the Method propoſed, may ſecure both Rich and Poor from Extremity? And how diſhonourable is it to this Kingdom, that ſo fruitful a Soil as *England*, which by the Induſtry of its moſt unuſeful Inhabitants, might ſo eaſily become the Garden of Europe, ſhould, by their ſloth and obſtinacy, lie unimproved? How many Hundred Thouſand Beggers, Vagrants, Drones, Nurſes of Debauchery, *&c.* who are not only a Diſhonour, but a great Diſadvantage to the Nation, living in continual ſinful Practices againſt the Laws of God and good Government, depriving themſelves of all means of Religious and Civil Education, to the great danger of their own Souls; Ill Example of others; and deſtruction of their Poſterity, being neither ſerviceable to the Publick, nor capable of raiſing themſelves to any better condition, might by this Method, be wholly reform'd, or prevented?

Wherefore upon theſe ſeveral *weighty* conſiderations, and for that, beſides the *Princely* Encouragement before-mentioned, I have had the Approbation of that great lover of Ingenuity, The Right Honourable, the Lord Viſcount *Brouncker*, Preſident of the *Royal Society*, who was pleas'd to peruſe my Propoſals, and expreſs his Sentiments very favourably thereupon; As alſo having received by letter ſome conſiderable and preſſing Incitements, to proceed from an Eminent publick ſpirited Divine, the Reverend, Dr. *John Beale*, one of His Majeſties Chaplains, and a Member of the ſaid *Royal Society*. I am therefore embolden'd, particularly to entreat the *Chriſtian* conſideration of the moſt *grave and pious Divines*, and all the Honourable and Ingenious Aſſociates of that *Auguſt Society* in this matter, and accordingly, to give their Encouragement, Approbation, and Aſſiſtance; or otherwiſe to diſcover my miſtakes, and rectifie any falſe Meaſures, which through Inadvertency, or over-zeal, to the deſign I may have committed, by publiſhing ſome more *Feazible Methods* from their better improved Reaſon, whereby I ſhall at once be confuted and inſtructed; and though failing in the means, ſhall not miſs of my deſired End, *viz. The Glory of God, the Proſperity of the Nation, and the Happy Reformation of many thouſands, who are a diſhonour to Both.*

FINIS.